TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 10, 1983 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 5 totaled an estimated 15.7 billion ton-miles, 5.4 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 9 weeks of 1983 was an estimated 135.5 billion ton-miles, 4.6 percent below the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended March 5 totaled 362,406 cars, 9.2 percent below 1982, but 4.1 percent higher than the preceding holiday week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 16.0 percent in the East, 10.1 percent in the South and 4.0 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1982, 16 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, loadings of lumber and wood products posted a 17.7 percent gain, motor vehicles and equipment loadings increased by 11.8 percent and grain loadings were up 7.2 percent. Seventeen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding holiday week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended February 26 totaled 41,666 cars, up 7.6 percent from the corresponding week of 1982 and 71,700 trailers and/or containers, 4.1 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first eight weeks of the year was 327,158 cars, 16.7 percent higher than last year, and 558,491 trailers and/or containers, up 12.1 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/5/83:

	Loadings in Week ended March 5, 1983		Change from Corresponding Week 1982			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	29,920	I	1,998	7.2	I	5,653	23.3
Other farm products	3,057	D	1,437	32.0	D	98	3.1
Metallic ores	11,223	D	6,676	37.3	I	58	0.5
Coal	101,854	D	22,997	18.4	I	81	0.1
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	7,766	D	1,281	14.2	I	394	5.3
Nonmetallic minerals	10,204	D	650	6.0	I	1,649	19.3
Grain mill products	11,862	D	1,451	10.9	I	294	2.5
Food and kindred products	12,627	D	1,384	9.9	I	208	1.7
Primary forest products	14,967	D	2,232	13.0	I	40	0.3
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,860	I	1,030	17.7	D	531	7.2
Pulp, paper and allied products	15,792	D	2,087	11.7	I	346	2.2
Chemicals and allied products	25,078	D	528	2.1	I	1,995	8.6
Petroleum products	4,630	I	49	1.1	I	381	9.0
Stone, clay and glass products	9,096	D	1,061	10.4	I	356	4.1
Coke	4,637	D	670	12.6	D	313	6.3
Metals and products	8,755	D	2,955	25.2	I	181	2.1
Motor vehicles and equipment	16,179	I	1,713	11.8	D	192	1.2
Waste and scrap materials	8,101	D	1,309	13.9	I	385	5.0
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	9,015	D	964	9.7	I	505	5.9
All other carloads	50,557	I	7,463	17.3	I	2,866	6.0
LCL traffic	220	D	1,417	86.6	I	16	7.8
Total Cars Loaded	362,406	D	36,846	9.2	I	14,274	4.1
Corresponding week of 1982	399,252						

	1983	1982	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (9 weeks)	3,096,019	3,381,934	D 8.5
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
8 weeks ended February 26	119.7	125.4	D 4.5
Week ended March 5	15.7	16.6	D 5.4
9 weeks cumulative	135.5	142.0	D 4.6

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